

F. HILLMAN, WILLIAM

X: TRUMAN, HARRY S.

14 January 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

1. Last Friday, 8 January 1960, William Hillman telephoned me at home. He was at the Mühlenbach Hotel in Kansas City. Mr. Truman, he said, would make a speech on Saturday in Phoenix, Arizona. He was greatly disturbed, Hillman said, by the Russian announcement of closing off an area in the Pacific for rocket tests.

2. Mr. Truman asked if he could get some guidance. I talked by phone with Mr. Dulles immediately and then through our CIA switchboard got Mr. Hillman on the phone and told him in substance the following:

"The Russians are doing only what we are doing. The ocean is not owned by any nation, so they have the same right as we have to conduct their tests after they make the public announcements of the impact area."

3. I told him that in view of this, Mr. Dulles believed that our State Department would not protest the Soviet action because we don't have a good case. Bill said he would present these ideas to Mr. Truman, but that the President felt so strongly about the Soviet action that he likely would criticize the Russians.

Stanley J. Grogan  
Assistant to the Director

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Taken from Mr. Citizen by Harry S. Truman, Bernard Geis Associates, 1960.

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The reason that led me to set up the Central Intelligence Agency was to make sure that all the vast amounts of information available to the different departments of the government would be coordinated and made immediately available to the President --- without being edited or interpreted by any one department.